

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application.

A restriction requirement has been imposed between the invention of claims 1-21 and 32-34 (Group I), drawn to blood oxygenating and pumping apparatus and method of priming a blood apparatus, and claims 22-31 (Group II), drawn to a gas removal system for removing air from blood.

For the invention of Group I, an election of species requirement has been imposed between the following species:

Species A: FIGS. 1, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, and 5A, 5B;

Species B: FIGS. 1, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, and 6A, 6B;

Species C: FIGS. 8 and 5A, 5B; and

Species D: FIGS. 8 and 6A, 6B.

For the invention of Group II, an election of species requirement has been imposed between the following species:

Species E: FIGS. 5A and 5B;

Species F: FIGS. 6A and 6B; and

Species G: FIG. 7.

Applicants have been requested to elect the Group and species for initial examination in the application, and a listing of all claims that read thereon.

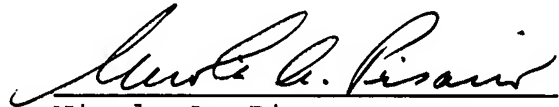
Applicants' Response

Applicants elect group I and species A/B for initial examination (FIGS. 1-5, 11 and 12). Applicants identify claims 1-21 as corresponding to the elected species (there are no claims specifically directed to the FIGS. 5A/5B and 6A/6B).

Applicants have amended the pending claims to more clearly set out additional features of the present invention, as are described throughout the specification of the present application.

An early and favorable action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nicola A. Pisano". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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